

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present patent application. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 10, line 29. Therefore, the amendments to the claims are supported by the specification as originally filed and no new matter has been added. Moreover, applicants submit that all amendments have been made to further business objectives and the same are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application. Finally, applicants respectfully acknowledge that the Examiner has concluded that claims 3-13 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

The Examiner has maintained the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Patil et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,348,224. While Applicants respectfully disagree, Applicants have incorporated the subject matter of claim 3 into claim 1 so that the present patent application can be passed to issue. Such an amendment has been made in order to further business objectives and to expedite the prosecution of the present patent application.

In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the rejection made under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn and rendered moot.

Applicants submit that the pending claims are ready to pass to issue. Reconsideration of favorable action are earnestly solicit.

Case No.: F3277(C)

In the event, the Examiner has any questions concerning the present patent application, he is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Squillante, Jr.', is written over a horizontal line.

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